WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An active node selection method, comprising:

selecting the active node based on information stored in a storage node where available; and

selecting the active node based on an identifier of an available node where information stored in the storage node is not available.

2. The active node selection method of claim 1, wherein the selection is made between at least two nodes capable of operating as the active node.

3. The active node selection method of claim 1, wherein the storage node and the active node are coupled to a common network.

4. The active node selection method of claim 1, wherein the information is read from the storage node and includes an identifier of a previously active node.

5. The active node selection method of claim 4, wherein the previously active node is the node that was active prior to de-energization of the active node if the information stored in the storage node indicates the previously active node when the previously active node is energized.

6. The active node selection method of claim 1, wherein the identifier is an address of the node.

7. The active node selection method of claim 1, wherein the information stored in the storage node includes a globally unique identifier associated with a last active node.

8. The active node selection method of claim 1, further comprising selecting the active node based on communications between at least two nodes where such communication is possible, and

wherein selecting the active node based on information stored in a storage node occurs when communication between the two nodes is not possible.

9.   A node activation method, comprising:

determining whether one or more other nodes that may become active are coupled to the node.

reading an identifier from a shared storage node;

5   activating the node if the identifier indicates the node;

selecting one of the node and the other nodes as initially active if the node and the other nodes are not indicated by the identifier read from the shared storage node;

writing an identifier of the node to the shared storage node if the node and the

10   other nodes are not indicated by the identifier read from the shared storage node;

rewriting the identifier of the node to the shared storage node periodically if the node is initially active; and

selecting the node as active if the identifier of the node remains in the shared storage node after a predetermined period of time and a last active node has not

15   informed the node that it is active within the predetermined period of time.

10.   The node activation method of claim 9, wherein a hardware device external to the node determines the presence of network nodes and reports present network nodes to the node.

11.   The node activation method of claim 9, wherein re-writing the identifier

20   of the node to the shared storage node occurs after re-reading the identifier from the shared storage node and when the identifier from the shared storage node is not the identifier of the node.

12.   The node activation method of claim 9, further comprising communicating with the one or more other nodes that could become active and are

25   coupled to the node and selecting an active node from among the node and the other nodes based on activity prior to the node and one or more other nodes that could become active last being de-energized.

13.   The node activation method of claim 9, wherein the node and the other nodes are coupled to a common network.

30   14.   The node activation method of claim 9, wherein the identifier is a globally unique identifier.

15.   The node activation method of claim 9, wherein the identifier is a system unique identifier.

16.   The node activation method of claim 9, wherein the one of the node and the other nodes that is selected as initially active is the one of the node and the other nodes having a lowest identifier value.

17.   The node activation method of claim 9, wherein the one of the node and the other nodes that is selected as initially active is the one of the node and the other nodes having a highest identifier value.

18.   A chassis management module, comprising:
a communications adaptor to couple to a network;
a processor to retrieve active chassis management module information from a shared storage node through the communications adaptor, attempt to communicate with other chassis management modules coupled to the network through the communications adaptor, and determine whether the chassis management module should be active based on the information and the communication.

19.   The chassis management module of claim 18, wherein the active chassis management module information includes an address of a last active chassis management module and the chassis management module is to become active if an address of the chassis management module matches the address in the information.

20.   The chassis management module of claim 18, wherein the processor is further to become initially active if the chassis management module and the other chassis management modules coupled to the network are not indicated by the information retrieved from the shared storage node.

21.   The chassis management module of claim 20, wherein one of the other chassis management modules is to become active and the chassis management module is not to become active if the chassis management module has an identifier that is greater than one of the other chassis management modules.

22.   The chassis management module of claim 20, wherein one of the other chassis management modules is to become active and the chassis management module is not to become active if the chassis management module has an identifier that is less than one of the other chassis management modules.

5   23.   The chassis management module of claim 20, wherein the processor is further to:

write an identifier of the chassis management module to the shared storage node if the chassis management module and other chassis management modules are not indicated by the information retrieved from the shared storage node;

10   rewrite the identifier of the chassis management module to the shared storage node periodically if the chassis management module is initially active; and

select the chassis management module as active if the identifier of the chassis management module remains in the shared storage node after a predetermined period of time and a last active node has not informed the node that it

15   is active within the predetermined period of time.

24.   A node, comprising:

a network adaptor to receive and transmit information related to a last active chassis management module; and

a data storage device to store the information.

20   25.   The node of claim 24, wherein the data storage device is to receive the information related to the last active chassis management module through the network adaptor from a chassis management module.

26.   The node of claim 24, wherein the data storage device is to transmit information related to the last active chassis management module to a chassis

25   management module by way of the network adaptor when the information is requested by the chassis management module.

27.   An article of manufacture, comprising:

a computer readable medium having stored thereon instructions which, when executed by a first processor, cause the first processor to:

30   retrieve active processor information from a shared storage node;

become active if the active processor information indicates the first processor;

attempt to communicate with a second processor indicated by the active processor information if the active processor information does not indicate the first processor; and

5   become active if the second processor does not communicate with the first processor.

28.   The article of manufacture of claim 27, wherein becoming active further comprises the instructions causing the first processor to:

writing the identifier of the node to the shared storage node periodically; and

selecting the node as active if the identifier of the node remains in the shared

10   storage node after a predetermined period of time and a last active node has not informed the node that it is active within the predetermined period of time.

29.   A network comprising:

a shared storage node coupled to a network to receive active chassis management module information, to store such active chassis management module

15   information, and to transmit such active chassis management module information when requested; and

a chassis management module coupled to the network to request active chassis management module information from the shared storage node and transmit information related to the chassis management module to the shared storage node

20   when the chassis management module becomes active.

30.   The network of claim 29, wherein the active chassis management module information includes an identifier of the last active chassis management module.